



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAREER OFFENDER SENT BACK TO PRISON

(Beaumont, TX) A 29-year-old Beaumont man has been sentenced to 290 months in federal prison for violating federal drug trafficking and weapons laws in the Eastern District of Texas. **RAMIRO RODRIGUEZ JAIMES** was sentenced this past Wednesday morning by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to information presented in court, Jaimes was arrested on December 16, 2004, at his residence after selling two kilograms of cocaine and 48 grams of "crack" cocaine to an undercover police officer. At the time of the arrest, both Jaimes and a co-defendant, Danny Ray Estrada, 25, of Austin, were in the possession of loaded handguns.

Jaimes and Estrada pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. At sentencing, Judge Heartfield found Jaimes to be a career offender because of his previous Jefferson County convictions for Aggravated Robbery and Possession of a Deadly Weapon in a Penal Institution, and sentenced the defendant to 230 months in federal prison for the cocaine trafficking charge and 60 months for the weapons charge. Pursuant to federal law, the 60 month sentence for the weapons violation must be served consecutive to the 230 month sentence for the drug conviction. Estrada was sentenced in October 2005 to 160 months in prison for the same offenses.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas was pleased with the sentence, "Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms for a reason. We will continue to do everything possible to keep our communities safe from gun-toting drug dealers."

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Jefferson County Narcotics Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Hobbs prosecuted the case.

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